

Spark Gap

Volume 23, Issue 1, January 2006



*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*

MARC

Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

prior to Christmas.

Ernest was notified that the MARC application for 501(c) 3 recognition is going to be approved. MARC can expect to receive the official letter of determination of status within a week to 10 days. Hopefully, it will be received before you read this update here.

The initial paperwork went in during October of 2004; the IRS saw a few warning flags in the paperwork financials and suggested last March that we re-file as a 501(c)4, which was done; and nothing more was received until the phone call just prior to Christmas.

During this time the agent in charge monitored our website and newsletter, and has concluded that we're definitely doing public service work, that the warning flags are not as ominous as his first reading led him to suspect....and so approval as a 501(3)c.

...Ernest Clark, KB9SKI

MARC Tax-Exempt Status Is Coming

...Ernest Clark, KB9SKI

Congratulations!

Thanks to all club members who have worked so hard during the years MARC has been in existence. I had such a thrill reading the past minutes of the club's activities after I was elected as club secretary. Knowing that the club worked so many public service events made me proud to be a new member.

501(3)c Status

Countless SKYWARN nets were activated over the years, local emergency management drills were assisted with communications, club members worked the Indy 500 Mini Marathon and Parade, assisted in community fairs, safety fairs and strawberry festivals. The list goes on and continues today.

Please check out the calendar on the back page. There are many opportunities to again help with emergency communications. The mini-marathon has expanded its number of runners and Mike Palmer says he needs 100 amateur radio volunteers. Johnson County is having its yearly emergency management drill in April. And there are more.....

Thanks to all who make this a great public service club.

...Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH

Presidential Election to Highlight ARRL Board of Directors Meeting

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 12, 2006—The election of a new ARRL president will



highlight the annual meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors. When the Board convenes Friday and Saturday, January 20 and 21, in Windsor, Connecticut, Jim Haynie, W5JBP, will wield the gavel for the last time as the League's president. Haynie, who lives in

Dallas, Texas, has made it known over the past few months that he will not be a candidate for a fourth two-year term. He says that while it's been a great honor to serve as the ARRL's president for the past six years, he feels it's time to step aside.

"It's a time-consuming job. It tends to wear on you after a while," Haynie conceded this week. "I've racked up hundreds of thousands of miles traveling—not only here in the United States but all over the world representing the ARRL and Amateur Radio."

Haynie says he's thoroughly enjoyed his tenure in the League's top office—a strictly volunteer position—but he believes someone with fresh ideas and a different vision from his now should take over the reins. The ARRL Board customarily elects a president from among its own ranks or elevates one of the League's vice presidents, although it's not required to. When he was elected, Haynie was the ARRL West Gulf Division Director.

Among the successes of his six years as ARRL president, Haynie cites the ARRL Education and Technology Program—often better known as "The Big Project." Haynie kicked off the initiative to put

Amateur Radio stations and a curriculum into schools across the US shortly after he took office in 2000. The program now boasts upward of 180 participating schools.

Haynie says he's also proud to have been able to contribute to enhancing the visibility of Amateur Radio at the FCC, in "official Washington" and on Capitol Hill. "I enjoyed that work," said Haynie, who testified before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act in 2003. Last year, he submitted written testimony to the House Government Reform Committee on the successful efforts of Amateur Radio operators who provided communications during the Hurricane Katrina response.

"It's paid off in the long run," Haynie said of his regular visits to Washington to

advance Amateur Radio's agenda. "Amateur Radio needs to learn how to sell itself, not just from the League's standpoint," he said. "The president can only do so much." He encouraged all radio amateurs, whether or not they're ARRL members, to promote Amateur Radio and its value to the community.

Once he steps down, Haynie says he's looking forward to "maybe chasing some DX or running a few contests." But he says he'll also make himself available to the Board to handle "any duty necessary."

Among other items on its annual meeting agenda, the ARRL Board is expected to discuss the process of developing effective band plans to support rule changes the League recently requested in a Petition for Rule Making RM-11306. The petition asks the FCC to regulate the amateur bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by mode. The Commission will accept public comments on the petition until February 6. ■

Officers

President:
Scott Coombs,
KC9EKR

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Linda
Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Treasurer:
Brenda Haler,
KC9EBL

Repeater Trustee:
Matt Payne,
KB9JUE

Spark Gap Editor:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

MARC needs your help!

Are you a member of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club? If so, then the club needs your assistance. In order to update, straighten up, and generally get the officers on the same page with the same database (which we hope to share with all members), we need you to fill out a new application and basically update all your club information.

Now is the time to tell us what mode applications you are using, what nets in which you are active and what specialties you may be able to bring to assist other club members. We may need your help in demonstrating the correct and most efficient way to toss an antenna over a tree limb to some of the newer club members. (as in the club secretary who has never tossed an antenna into a tree but in her youth tossed several rolls of toilet paper...but that's another story) So please pick up an application at the next meeting or grab one off the website and get it filled out and to the club secretary at secretary@midstatehams.org

That's not all...

We also need all those members who wish to participate in ARES/RACES to fill out our new Resource List Questionnaire. Some of the information is a repeat of the above but we really need to know who will be participating in these types of events.

Also all who do participate in ARES/RACES events are being encouraged to complete some training for these events. A complete training list is being compiled but among the training will be an expectation that the NIMS IS-700 training will be completed prior to September 30, 2006.

To assist you in completing the NIMS IS-700 training (basically an Incident Command training), we have 5 complete copies of the Self-study guide for you to use, copies of the questions, and an information sheet that tells

you how to go to the website to enter you information and answers and complete the training. Once you have submitted your test answers, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) will send you an e-mail within 48 hours telling you if you have successfully completed the course. In 6 to 8 weeks after taking the test you will receive your official certificate.

We will need a copy of your certificate (a copy of the e-mail will work until then). Our secretary will see to it that Tug Sutton, Johnson County Emergency Management Director, also receives a copy.

Additional training will be required by FEMA in the future so please don't get behind in training. Successful completion of the NIMS IS-700 will convey that your participation in ARES/RACES events is of a professional and trained variety.

That's not all...

The club secretary has information on an upcoming all day Advanced Spotter Workshop to be held on March 18, 2006 (yup, that's our March meeting date). Unlike the annual spotter class that will be held on February 22, 2006, this is an all day workshop that you must pre-register for and pay a small fee (\$20 if you register by Feb. 18, after that date \$25) but you do get fed lunch.

Linda also has info on the Columbus Hamfest, and color printouts of the Central Indiana SKYWARN information, the ARRL US Amateur Bands, and the two-page Amateur Radio Band Plan from ICOM. These will be distributed at the next meeting but if you can't make the meeting, let her know at secretary@midstatehams.org and she will see you get copies.

Oh...and we need someone to volunteer to be our ARES Director. Please, please, please.

*...That's all (Whew!)
Linda, KC9GCH*

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone

Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST

Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to netcontrol@midstatehams.org, and we will record your check-in!

MARC

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P.O. Box 836
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www.midstatehams.org
317.887.2558
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2006 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

JANUARY 2006

21 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

FEBRUARY 2006

4 Mini-Marathon 5K Pre-Race

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

14 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

18 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

22 2006 Storm Spotters Class

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

25 Cabin Fever Hamfest (LaPorte Amateur Radio Club)

Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge Street, LaPorte, IN

MARCH 2006

4 Mini-Marathon 10K Pre-Race

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

14 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

18 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

25 Columbus HamFest (Columbus Amateur Radio Club)

Community Building at 4-H Fairgrounds, , State Route 11, Columbus, IN

25 Spring Fling Hamfest (Michigan City ARC)

Diamond Cove, 716 US HWY 212, Michigan City, IN

APRIL 2006

11 Red Cross Disaster Radio Group Meeting

Red Cross Chapter, Indianapolis, IN

15 MARC Meeting

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

15 Mini-Marathon 15K Pre-Race

Indianapolis, IN (Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, www.indyhams.org for more info)

29 Johnson County Emergency Management Drill

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.